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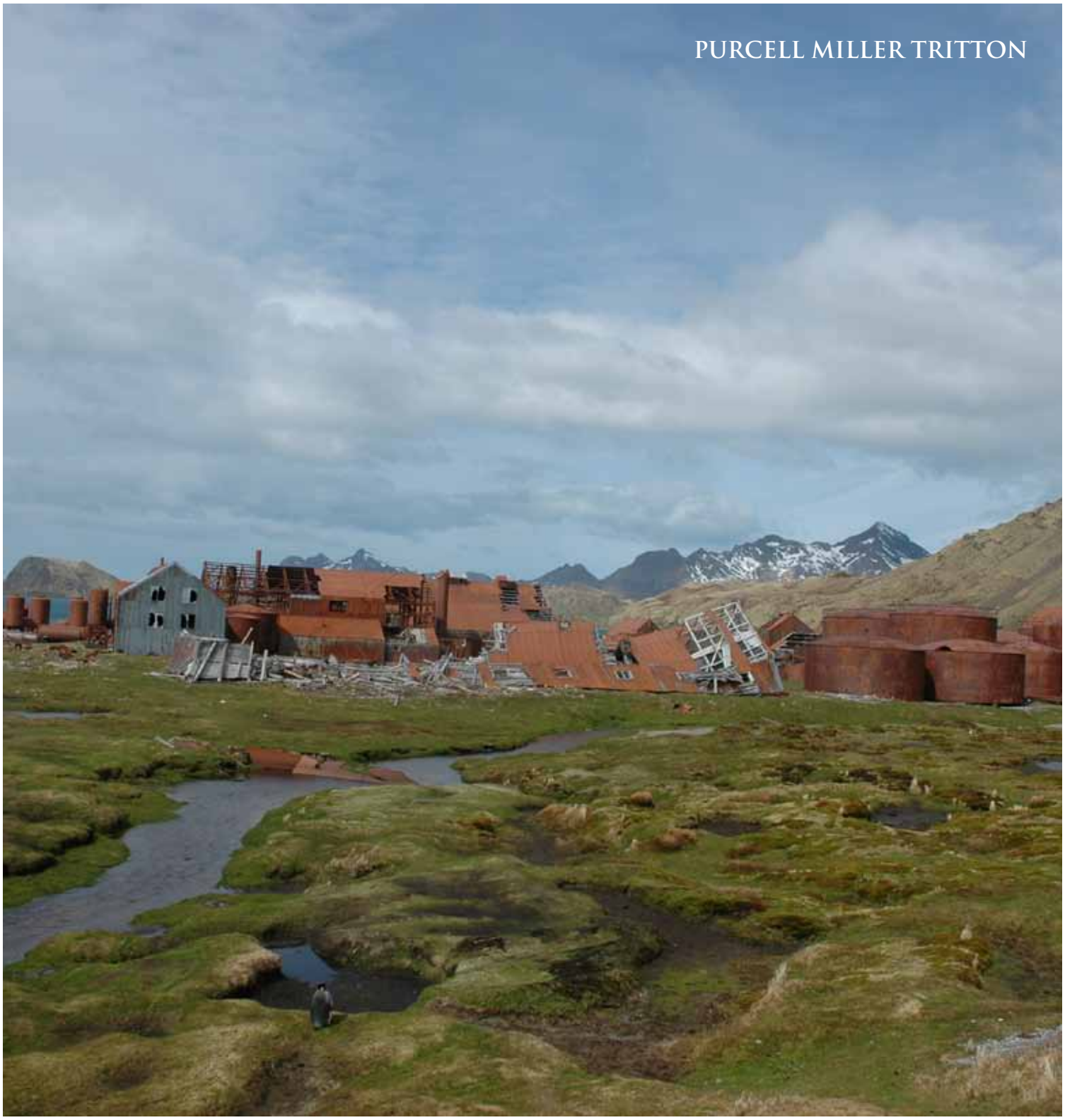

DISUSED WHALING STATIONS

Stromness Harbour Gazetteer

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Gazetteer, July 2011

This gazetteer is prepared in conjunction with a general report into the condition of the disused whaling stations. This report was prepared following a series of inspections in late October and early November 2010. The report was prepared for the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands (GSGSSI) who have original copies of the main report and the various gazetteers.

The gazetteers are not intended to be a comprehensive survey of the buildings and structures, but they do represent a snapshot of the condition of the sites at a particular moment. Additional photographs are available and have been deposited with the GSGSSI.

The survey team consisted of:

Pat Lurcock	–	Government Officer, GSGSSI
Dave Peck	–	Clerk of Works, GSGSSI
Tommy Moore	–	Thames Laboratories
Michael Morrison	–	Purcell Miller Tritton LLP

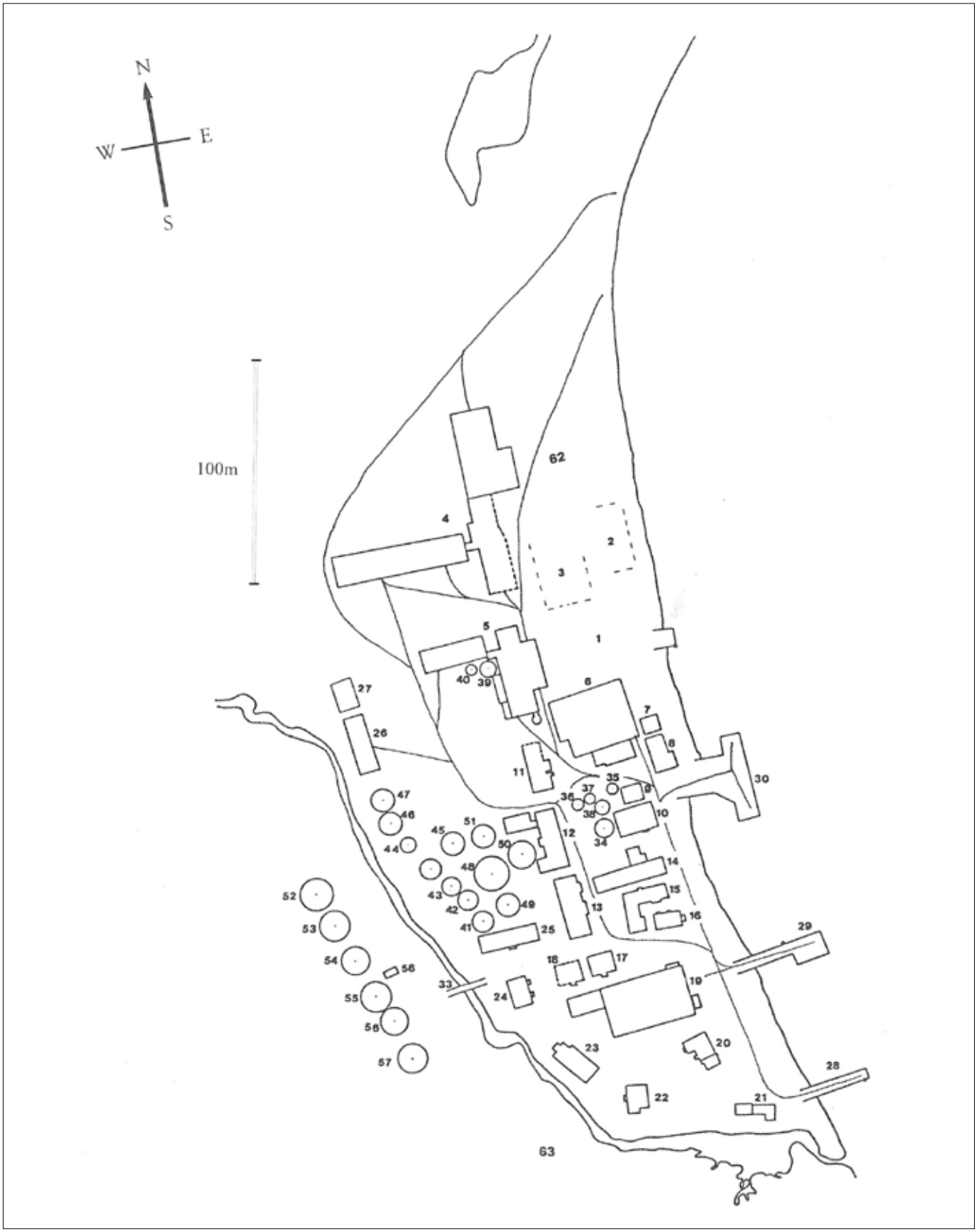
The surveys at each site were necessarily very brief and were intended to make a general assessment of the overall condition of the site and a specific assessment of the asbestos hazard. Thames Laboratories have reported specifically on the asbestos and their report is also lodged with GSGSSI.

The timetable for the visits was:

Grytviken	–	29 October, 5/6 November 2010
Husvik	–	30 October 2010
Stromness	–	31 October, 4 November 2010
Leith	–	1/2 November 2010
Prince Olaf	–	3 November 2010

Generally the visits were made between 0800 and 1700 hours and the weather was uniformly good.

Please note that throughout the report the use of north, east, west and south should only be taken as approximate to indicate the side of the structure that has been photographed. This is to avoid the cumbersome usage of northwest, west northwest etc. Northwest, southwest etc., are only used when there would be confusion over which face of the structure is being referred to.



This location plan is taken from the appendices of the book 'The Shore Whaling Stations of South Georgia' published by Novus Press, 15 September 2004 (ISBN-10: 8270993948) by Bjorn L Basberg. The numbering system for all the structures and the names all replicate those in the book for easy identification and comparison.

1 ..... Flensing platform
2 ..... Bone Cookery, dismantled
3 ..... Meat and Bone Cookery, dismantled
4 ..... Guano Factory and Store
5 ..... Boiler House and Power Station
6 ..... Workshop, former Blubber Cookery
7 ..... Store
8 ..... Store No. 1
9 ..... Pump House
10 ..... Store No. 2
11 ..... Carpenter's Shop
12 ..... Plating Shop, Foundery and Store
13 ..... Kitchen and Mess
14 ..... Kitchen and Mess
15 ..... Radio Workshop and Store
16 ..... Foremen's Barracks and Mess
17 ..... Barracks No. 1
18 ..... Barracks No. 2, ruin
19 ..... Mechanical Workshop and Plating Shop
20 ..... Villa: Manager's House
21 ..... Dock Store
22 ..... Officers' House
23 ..... Cinema, Theatre and Library
24 ..... Bath House
25 ..... Barracks No. 3
26 ..... Pigsty
27 ..... Store, Sheep and Henhouse
28-30 ..... Jetties
31-32 ..... Bridges: not on the map
33 ..... Bridge
34-57 ..... Tanks
58 ..... Pump House
59 ..... Pump House: not on the map
60 ..... Pump House: not on the map
61 ..... Winch House: not on the map
62 ..... Railway
63 ..... Cemetery

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1 The Plan

Stromness ceased to be used as an active whaling station after its closure for the 1931/32 season. When it reopened it was as a ship repair base for the Leith Station. The Plan therefore had nearly thirty years where it was used but not as a flensing platform.

Some of the original timber deck remains in place but grass is growing through it and much of it is covered with stones. The area is now strewn with debris – several old cookers, the collapsed chimneys from the boiler house, 16 spare pump shafts, lengths of chain, a carved built wooden motor launch, a rudder and a propeller.

The winch house remains in position on the west side of the Plan with two winches still in place (although one of the boiler chimneys has fallen through the end of the building). There are several other winches in place around the Plan.

1.1 General view of the Plan looking west to the Boiler House

1.2 Spare prop shafts by the side of Building No. 6

1.3 Looking north across the Plan

1.4 The fallen boiler chimney

1.5 Winches on the north side of the Plan with the Meat Cookery in the background

1.6 The motor boat with Building No. 6 Workshop in the background

2 Bone Cookery

The Bone Cookery no longer exists. All that remains is some concrete footings and the timber base plates for some of the walls. This building was noted as 'dismantled' in Bjorn Basberg's survey in the 1990s.

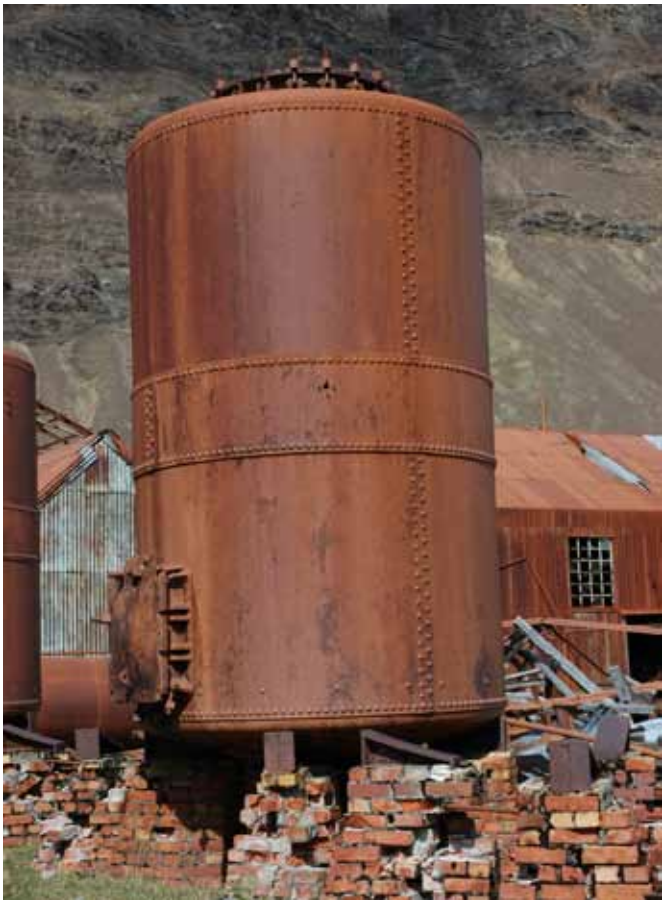
2.1 The remnants of the Bone Cookery looking south

3 Meat and Bone Cookery

The building has either collapsed or has been deliberately dismantled. Little remains of the original structure although there is a good tangle of dumped pipework.

Eleven cookers remain standing off brick bases but the brickwork is in very poor condition and the majority of these are likely to collapse in the next few years.

3.1 The remaining standing west row of cookers



3.2 Detail of the cooker

3.3 The remnant of the Meat Cookery looking southwards

4 Guano Plant and Store

This is in effect three separate buildings and will be dealt with separately.

4.1 The North Wing

This appears to have been mainly a storage building attached at its south end to the main area of the guano plant. It is a large steel framed building clad in corrugated iron with RSJ columns at 2m centres and a roof of angle iron trusses. The building has an aisle in the form of a lean-to for the full length of the west wall and a similar extension to the south of the east wall. In both cases the roof slope is continuous from the main roof to the aisle.

The steel frame looks to be solid enough but around 25% of the wall sheeting and 30% of the roof sheeting is now missing. The purlins and fixing rails are of timber and a good deal of the remaining sheeting is now at risk of wind damage.

The floor of the building is all in concrete and there is an upper storage floor down the centre of the building with timber decking on a steel frame; the upper level being reached by a timber stair. This building was last used for storage of bricks, rope, timbers, steel sheeting and various pieces of mechanical equipment.

4.1.1 The north elevation of the North Wing

4.1.2 The east elevation of the North Wing

4.1.3 The west elevation of the North Wing

4.1.4 The east elevation of the North Wing

4.1.5 One of the guano cookers

4.1.6 The stair to the upper deck

4.1.7 The interior of the North Wing looking southwards

4.2 The Guano Factory

This area joined the north and west wings of Building No. 4 together. The building has collapsed completely and there is now only a tangle of timbers and corrugated iron. There is no sign of any of the plant (conveyors, rotary cookers, screens, bagging plant etc) that one might expect, suggesting that all the plant had been withdrawn for use at another site (Leith presumably?).

The most recent use of this area has been for the storage of bricks. Three different Scottish bricks were identified 'Preston Grange', 'Edinburgh' and 'Castlecary'. The Castlecary Company (Castlecary Fireclay Co Ltd) was incorporated in 1919 and dissolved in 1937 after the company had been taken over by General Refractories of Sheffield – which suggests that these bricks have been here, unused, since the 1930s.

4.2.1 Bricks from the store

4.2.2 The site of the Guano Factory between the two wings looking south

4.3 The West Wing

This would appear to be another large store. The building has a railway track running down the centre (east/west) set some 600mm below the general floor level with two north/south branches with turntables. This would be a convenient height for loading and unloading sacks.

The building is constructed with a steel frame with columns to the walls at 2m centres and a trussed steel framed roof all covered in corrugated iron. Every third bay has a heavier column with a pair of props at quarter and three-quarters positions which support lifting beams and chain hoists. The sheeting rails and purlins are all steel and, at the time of inspection, approximately 40 percent of the wall sheeting had blown off and some 20 percent of the roof sheeting. The RSJs forming the columns have been cast into concrete footings set in old iron drums and there is a good deal of corrosion around some of the stanchions. The last use of this building was for storage.

4.3.1 Interior of the West Wing looking east from the west end

4.3.2 The north elevation

4.3.3 The west elevation

4.3.4 The lowered railway track and turntable

4.3.5 The interior looking west

5 Boiler House and Power Station

Building No. 5 is again really three distinct buildings. The west wing contains the power plant. The main southern part of the building contains the boilers and the northern part joining the two wings together is a workshop.

5.1 West Wing

The power plant building has been constructed in two separate phases. The eastern part appears to have been built first to house the two splendid steam engines and generators. This section is built out of a steel frame which has been infilled with brickwork – this is clad externally with corrugated iron but is left exposed and painted internally. The roof is supported by angle iron steel trusses with a cat walk on the bottom chord of the truss. The roof is boarded under the corrugated iron covering.

The west end of the west wing which was built to house the diesel/electric generators has a steel frame of a slightly different design and is clad internally and externally in corrugated iron with a small amount of vertical boarding and the area containing the electrical switchgear. The concrete floor runs across both buildings.

The north slope of the west wing roof has lost some 50 percent of its covering and sheets are now starting to come loose on the south slope.

5.1.1 North elevation of the West Wing

5.1.2 West elevation of the West Wing

5.1.3 West and south elevations of the West Wing (the Power Station) with the Boiler House to the right

5.2 The Main Boiler House

The boilers are in a building that has a steel frame and trussed steel roof. The walls have been filled in to approximately 4m high with brickwork with corrugated iron above. At high level there are some large cast iron windows – the frames remain but the glass has all disappeared. The corrugated iron cladding is missing entirely from the north wall and mostly from the south end of the building and around 80 percent of the roof sheeting is missing.

The southern part of the building contains two pairs of steam boilers all encased in brick and asbestos. There is a brick platform behind (to the east) of the boilers and a cat walk above. To the north of these main boilers are a pair of more conventional boilers each with its own flue. These boilers were probably in a separate brick enclosure but this has fallen down.

5.3 The North End

At the north end of the main boiler house is a large and rather gloomy shed which linked to a lean-to standing against the power house to the west (now collapsed) and into the winch shed to the east. This shed is framed up in steel columns with a steel trussed roof. The walls and roof are covered in heavy gauge corrugated iron.

5.2.1 The west elevation of the Boiler House

5.2.2 Detail of reciprocating dynamo

5.2.3 One of the two steam reciprocating dynamos originally made for the Bergen Tramway system

5.2.4 Collapsed boiler chimney seen from the Boiler House

5.2.5 The main boilers

5.2.6 Secondary boilers

5.2.7 Diesel generators in the Power House

5.2.8 Detail of the Main Boiler

5.2.9 General view of the Boiler House

5.1.10 General view over the Power House looking west from the high level gallery

5.2.11 Top of the main boilers

6 Workshop (former Blubber Cookery)

It would seem more accurate to describe this on the 'site of' the former Blubber Cookery as no traces remain of the previous building or plant. Building No.6 is a large steel framed building that was, presumably, put up as a purpose-built workshop. The rectangular main building has long 'lean-to aisles' to the east and west and a separate building attached to the southeast corner containing a forge.

6.1 The southeast corner of the main building

The main building has an open central area which looks as though it has had machinery removed from it. In the western aisle there is a good deal of stored pipework in racking. In the northeast corner there is a workshop area joined to the main space and then a separate enclosed workshop on the east side. This workshop still has a good deal of machinery inside along with the pulleys and belt drives that would have operated the machinery.

The large main space has a double row of columns propping the roof and supporting an upper deck on the east side. The timber stair to this deck was damaged and the area was not accessed. The steel frame generally looks reasonably solid but 25 percent of the sheeting

6.2 The west elevation of the South Wing which contains the Forge

is missing from the end walls and perhaps 10 percent of the sheeting missing from the roof.

The building was lit by high level cast iron framed windows, one or two of which are still glazed. There are three large ventilators in the ridge of the roof. The internal space is large but the doors into the area appear modest in size by contrast with the doors in the southwest and northeast corners. Possibly a larger door in the central area of the north wall (i.e., facing the Plan) has been blocked in.

The Blacksmith Shop (or Forge) in the building to the southeast appears to have been built at a different time to the main building, indeed it may well pre-date it. It is equipped with four forges, two of which remain in place with their hoods and two of which have partially collapsed. All four chimney flues have collapsed. The building is framed up with steel columns and a trussed angle iron roof clad externally in corrugated iron. The internal walls have brickwork behind the forges but are otherwise lined out with flat steel sheet. There are large steel framed windows on the south wall together with access doors. The sheeting to the roof is damaged where the flue has collapsed.

6.3 The Workshop on the east side of the building

6.4 The Forge in the southern wing

6.5 The roof of the Forge

6.6 The northeast corner of the building

6.7 Pipes stored in the main building

7 Store

This small building has collapsed entirely. It was timber framed and clad in corrugated iron. The roof framing is still partially intact.

7.1 The north and west sides with Building No. 8 in the background

7.2 The east side of the collapsed building with Building No. 8 to the left and Building No. 6 to the right

8 Store No. 1

A timber framed corrugated iron clad storage building standing at the foreshore. The building is raised up on timber piles with the floor some 600mm above the lower ground level.

The roof of the building has fallen in with the southern gable overturning southwards. The attic floor remains at the end of the building (still with packing cases stacked on it at the south end) but has collapsed in the central area. The suspended ground floor remains in place though the floor joists are in poor condition. There is a lean-to pipe store on the east side of the building which has a seriously sagging corrugated iron roof.

8.1 The north and east sides

8.2 The lean-to on the south end of the east side

8.3 The central section of the building

8.4 The south gable end with Building No. 9 in the background to the left

9 Pump House

The pump house is built out of rendered brickwork with a solid concrete floor which is raised three steps off the ground level. The brick walls have been rendered internally and have double doors and a pair of four high casement windows on the east wall; otherwise the walls have no openings.

The roof is carried by steel trusses with corrugated iron cladding to the roof slopes and gable ends. The cladding is in reasonable order.

The space still contains pumps and pipework (with asbestos insulation). The brickwork is decaying around the penetrations of the pipes through the walls.

9.1 East elevation

9.2 North elevation

9.3 Interior of roof looking west

9.4 The remaining pumps

10 Store No. 2

A timber framed building with walls clad in vertical timber boarding, which has been over clad with corrugated iron on the north side. The roof is covered in corrugated iron which is dressed down over the eaves. The central area of the building has had an upper floor but this is now collapsed. Perhaps 80 percent of the roof has collapsed overall and the interior is now a jumble of timbers on top of a collection of old fuel drums.

The east wall has lost a good deal of its boarding which is allowing access to the seals. The building is unlikely to survive many more years.

10.1 The east elevation

10.2 Interior

10.3 The south elevation, east end

10.4 South elevation, west end with Tank 34 behind

11 Carpenter's Shop

A single storey timber framed building clad in corrugated iron. The majority of the roof of the building has collapsed along with the south gable end and part of the east wall. The west wall is still standing but is leaning against the rubble of the collapsed roof. A good deal of the woodworking machinery remains inside. There is a steam engine and winch to the west side of the building.

11.1 The nroth and west sides

11.2 The west elevation with the Workshop (No. 6) in the background

11.3 The south end of the building

11.4 Detail of machinery, west of the building

12 Plating Shop, Foundry and Store

This is actually two distinct buildings. The northwest wing is built in brick and clad in corrugated iron externally and rendered and painted internally. There are steel columns internally and a steel trussed roof. The eastern end of the wing is two storey and there are the remains of timber casement windows of a relatively domestic pattern. The roof has lost virtually all the corrugated iron sheets from the north slope.

The larger part of the building running north-south is a larger single storey volume with timber framed walls and simple timber trusses. This part of the building (foundry?) has an earth floor and the walls are unclad internally. There were windows and doors on the east wall and windows in the south gable – the majority of them are missing. There is some 20 percent of the corrugated iron sheeting missing from the north gable and 10 percent of the sheeting missing from the north end of the roof.

The building is currently used to store steel channels and I-beams.

12.1 The west elevation of the main wing

12.2 The east elevation of the main wing

12.3 The north elevation with the gable of the main wing to the left of the photograph, the northwest wing to the right and Tank 50 behind

12.4 The south elevation of the main wing and the extension

12.5 The west and south elevations of the northwest wing

12.6 The interior of the main wing looking northwards

13 Kitchen and Mess

This is a single storey building with an accessible loft space. The loft is only lit by windows in the gable ends and appears to have been used for storage.

The building appears to be timber framed and is clad externally in bratticed timber vertical boarding with a corrugated iron roof. There are timber top hung casement windows in all the walls though virtually all the glass has disappeared and many of the windows are boarded up. This building is in better condition than most on the site.

There is a central kitchen serving messes to the north and south, each being approached by porches on the east side of the building. There are concrete floors in the messes and in the kitchen a solid floor covered in black and white tiles. A good deal of the kitchen equipment remains in place, including stainless steel sinks and a large stainless steel boiler and the 'Carron Oven' from Stirlingshire.

There is a central beam running down the building propped on tubular steel columns. The access stair to the loft space leads out of the kitchen area.

13.1 The south elevation

13.2 The west elevation

13.3 East and north elevations

13.4 The 'Carron Oven'

13.5 The main kitchen space

13.6 One of the two Mess Rooms with the central kitchen visible through the serving hatch

14 Kitchen and Mess

The west end of the building is constructed in brickwork whilst the remainder is timber framed clad both internally and externally in vertical timber boarding. The roof is of corrugated iron on timber purlins supported by timber trusses. The roof and the adjacent section of south walls have collapsed at the east end of the building.

The building has had an attic storey lit by windows in the gable ends. There has been a central stove and fire with a brick chimney. Timber casement windows remain in a few of the openings though most have disappeared.

The floor appears to be subsiding as do the columns supporting the attic floor. The roof has a large sag in it and the south wall has partly fallen out.

This building is close to the point of collapse.

14.1 The extension to the north side of the building

14.2 The east elevation and part of the north

14.3 The north elevation of the main building and the north and west faces of the extension

14.4 The collapsing west end of the south wall

14.5 The collapse at the east end of the building

14.6 Interior of the Mess Room space

15 Radio Workshop and Store

The last use of the building may well have been as a radio workshop but it appears to have had a complicated history and has probably changed users on more than one occasion. It has certainly been built in two distinct phases. The eastern (front) section of the building is constructed of 75mm thick 175mm deep horizontal timber boards with dovetailed corners. This has been sheathed in building paper and vertical match boarding and lined out internally with similar boarding. It seems likely that this eastern section was built originally as a single storey and has been extended upwards.

The western section by contrast is built of a timber frame clad in vertical boarding. There is an upper floor lit by windows in the gable ends and some dormers of differing patterns.

The general condition of the whole building is poor with the external cladding falling away and rotten elements of the structural frame. The roof covering is missing from the south sides of the west wing and the upper floor ceilings are coming down. The ground floor is also collapsing in places.

15.1 South elevation of the west wing

15.2 East elevation of the north wing

15.3 West elevation of the west wing and part of the north elevation and west gable of the north wing

15.4 The south and east elevations of the west wing

15.5 The south elevation of the north wing with the west wing to the left of the picture and Building No.16 to the right

15.6 First floor passage and bedroom beyond

15.7 Ground floor Store Room

16 The Foremen's Barracks and Mess

The latter use for this building was as the Foremen's Barracks but it now seems to be certain that this was built originally as the Manager's Villa. It would have been to this house that Shackleton came in May 1916 (and not to building No.20 as previously thought).

The house has a cellar some 1.5m deep with brick walls that are raised to form a brick plinth which lifts the ground floor some three steps above the ground level. The main structure is of 75x175 horizontal timber boards tongued and grooved together and dovetailed at the corners. Externally the walls are clad in vertical match boarding on battens on building paper. The internal vertical boarding appears to be fixed directly to the structure.

The house is two storey though most of the upper rooms are contained in the roof space with a low eaves and windows in the gable ends. The roof is covered in corrugated iron which is turned down over the eaves and there are the remnants of two brick chimneys. The roof sheeting is starting to come away on the south slope. There have been tie downs over the ridge and the chain of the easternmost one remains in position – though it is no longer effective.

16.1 East elevation

16.2 North and west elevations

16.3 South and west elevations

There is an entrance door in the east front and an entrance porch (with a collapsed floor) on the north side. The cellar is accessed down steps and through a door on the west side of the house. Side hung timber casement windows largely remain in place though no glass remains and some of the windows are boarded up.

The suspended timber ground floor has fallen into the cellar at the east end and has sagged visibly over the rest of the floor. The upper floor all remains but this too is distorted. Where the structure is visible it is clear that there is a good deal of rot in the lower courses of the structural boarding. It would also seem that this is not a new problem as repairs have been carried out previously.

This building is now fully open to the elements and is in a poor way. Its destruction is likely to be accelerated over the next few years.

16.4 The north elevation

16.5 Southeast ground floor room

16.6 First floor bathroom

16.7 First floor bedroom

16.8 Ground floor rooms on south side looking eastwards

16.9 Kitchen and stair

17 Barrack No.1

The Barrack is a three storey timber building with main floors at ground and first floor level and attic accommodation. The principal structure is of thick vertical boarding. This has a layer of building paper followed by horizontal boarding then battening and vertical boarding externally. Internally the finish is vertical tongued and grooved board. The whole building is on a concrete plinth and the first floor is approximately 750mm above the surrounding ground level. The plinth is made of rough concrete incorporating a considerable amount of the local stone.

The east front has two windows on the ground floor and two windows on the first floor and two closer spaced windows on the attic floor. The entrance is on the south side. There are four further windows on the north side and only two high level loft windows on the west side. The west side is clad with corrugated iron whereas all the other walls are clad in timber. The entrance porch is in corrugated iron with one ground floor window and two first floor windows on the west side. Some of the window casements (side hung) remain in place. The casements were originally eight-light windows, four over two, but several of the casement frames have broken away.

17.1 East elevation

17.2 North elevation

7.3 North and west elevations

The ground floor has largely collapsed inside the building and the first and second floors were not accessed. The rooms had loose bunk beds so it is not easy to see how many people used each space. There is a central brick chimney through the ridge. The corrugated iron on the south side is in reasonable order but it is missing from the west end of the north side, perhaps 15 percent of the roof sheeting is missing here. The boarding of the walls in poor condition below this area and there is also damage on the southern side adjacent to the porch.

The building has been stayed and guys remain in position on the north side.

17.4 The entrance area and stair

17.5 Typical ground floor room

18 Barrack No. 2

This building is roughly the same size as Barrack No. 1. It is marked as a ruin on the plan and all that remains of this is the concrete plinth and the entrance steps on the east side. It seems likely that it was identical to Building No. 1 from the location of the entrance steps and from its size.

Immediately to the north of the ruin of Building No. 18 is a fire hydrant in a metal old boiler (?) between the corner of No. 18 and No. 25. There are several of these around the site.

18.1 Typical fire hydrant point

18.2 Site of Barracks No. 2. Building No. 24 (Bath House) is in the background to the right.

19 Mechanical Workshop and Plating Shop

This is a substantial steel framed building with the plating shop being a smaller, but still substantial, extension to the west on the north side of the west elevation. The roof and walls of the plating shop are generally in good order. The sheeting is in good condition with the exception of the plastic panels used as window lights. These have cracked and four have now failed. There is some disturbance in the northwest corner where some sheets are missing. The plating shop is raised on concrete plinth approximately 350mm above the adjacent floor level. The sheeting of the main part of the building comes down to the floor at the rear but the concrete plinth raises approximately 400mm above ground level on the east side. The wall sheeting of the mechanical workshop is generally good, again with the exception of the glazed window panels. There are twenty of these on the south side and all of them are damaged. The south roof slope is generally intact but half the ridge is missing and there are now ten sheets missing from halfway up the west side of the slope.

The sheeting on the north wall is also in reasonable order with the exception of the window lights. There are two rows of eighteen lights; thirteen of them now have holes in them, some of them substantial. A large portion of sheeting on the north slope of the roof is now missing. The top three sheets are missing over 70 percent of the roof slope with perhaps 60 percent of the

19.1 Interior of the West Wing which is used as a steel store

19.2 South elevation

total roof area now blown off. The wall sheeting on the east side is reasonable, again with the exception of the plastic lights of which six are damaged.

There are two double sliding doors in the east elevation with railway tracks going through them. Both are now damaged and not closing. One has a personnel door missing, the other has boarding missing. There is also an open panel in the centre of the east wall, its purpose is not entirely clear.

The building is asymmetrical with a lean-to on the south side containing a storage gallery; the main part of the building is substantial with 200x500mm RSJ columns at approximately 4m centre with steel angle iron trusses. The building has a concrete floor with railway tracks running virtually the full length with some very substantial metal working machinery and a large forge and forging floor at the west end. The building has substantial steel wind bracing but the sheeting rails to the walls and the purlins to the roof are all in timber though of substantial 150x90mm sections. The plating shop is raised up three steps approximately 700mm above the floor of the main workshop. This too has a substantial steel frame 200x300mm RSJs and a cranked trussed roof to allow for a long central lifting beam which runs through the opening at the east end into the main area of the shop. The floor is concrete and the space is fitted out with racking for steel sheeting. Sheeting rails and purlins here are also in timber of a similar size to the main building.

19.3 North elevation

19.4 Interior of the main space looking west

19.5 West elevation

19.6 The main space looking eastwards

19.7 The opening between the steel store and main building

20 The Manager's House

The house is of two storeys clad in timber vertical boarding throughout with a corrugated iron roof. The entire building is raised with the ground floor up three steps from the surrounding ground level (approximately 600mm) and a brick plinth which has been rendered below the boarding. The main part of the house is a rectangle running north/south but it has a gable ended extension to both the east and west sides with roofs hipped into the main roof. There is also a single storey extension on the south side, a small single storey outshot on the west side and the remnants (suggested by the old roofline) of a further enclosed area on the west side.

20.1 East elevation

The entrance door on the west side has been blocked with corrugated iron; on the east side the front door, also up three large steps, is standing open. There has been a timber cill around and underneath the boarding around the main part of the house. This is not present under the extension to the south where the top of the brickwork is finished with an angled render bead. All the windows have been covered over either with boarding or with corrugated iron sheet. The timber wall boarding is generally satisfactory though there is a substantial area of wet rot damage on the southwest corner of the single storey extension and some of the boarding is loose on the rear outshot at the west side. There is also boarding missing above this area, probably pulled off when the roof sheeting of the outshot was removed. Where the boarding has decayed one can see that the base plate of the building is very rotten.

20.2 South elevation

20.3 West elevation

Roof sheeting is missing on the outshot on the west side. There is one missing sheet on the main west roof slope above this area. One sheet is starting to tear away on the north side of the west projecting gable roof. There are three brick chimneys all still standing and the remains of a radio aerial attached to one of them with the stays fallen away. The building has had a tie down wire running across inside the roof which remains in position on the north and east sides; only one can be seen on the west side and none on the south side, possibly being concealed by later extension.

Internally the ground floor has collapsed; the walls are covered in vertical boarding with timber boarded ceilings and a timber cornice. The house is fitted out with six panelled door and moulded architraves. The upper floors were not accessed.

20.5 Typical ground floor room

20.4 North elevation

21 The Dock Store

This is a simple timber framed corrugated iron building. Both parts of the building are currently being used by elephant seals as moulting areas. The rear slightly higher section of the building is boarded out internally with windows to the north and south sides and a door in the northeast corner. This appears to be fitted out as a workshop. The easternmost section is a simple open shed with openings on north and east sides and what may have been a window or simply a broken opening on the south side. This has rough boarding internally over the rather crude framework on unsquared posts. The roof structure is simple 'A' frame trusses with metal hanger rods. The higher section of the building has a boarded ceiling and trusses are not visible.

There is a small lean-to extension on the south side east end. This is steel framed out of angle iron with timber sheeting rails and purlins and a concrete floor. It appears to be another small storage shed with a small window on the south side and a pair of low doors on the east side. Both doors are now missing.

21.1 The north elevation

21.2 South elevation

21.3 The south elevation

21.4 The interior looking west

22 The Officer's House

The building is nearing the point of collapse. As with the Manager's House the basic construction appears to be thick vertical boards, some 65mm thick which are tongued and grooved. Horizontal battens are fitted over these thick boards and then building paper, then vertical entrance boarding. Internally there are thin battens with vertical boarding over these, which has largely been covered over in this building with painted hardboard.

This is a two storey building with a relatively high concrete plinth raising the whole building 600mm above the floor level at the highest point of the ground. The first floor protrudes up into the roof space with a gable end facing eastwards and a dormer window to the west. There have been two windows in the north facing gable but the wall has now collapsed down to below the window level. There are no windows in the south end where there is an outshot which contains the staircase. This appears to have had a separate external access door letting on to a porch which then communicates with the central passage area of the ground floor.

22.1 The south elevation

22.2 The west elevation

22.3 The east elevation

Internally the whole of the ground floor has collapsed. The walls are generally covered with vertical tongued and grooved boarding except in the rooms where it has been covered with hardboard. The ceiling is also covered with tongued and grooved boarding with a simple coving piece around the top of the walls. There are four panelled doors throughout the building with simple architraves. The whole of the corrugated iron is missing from the west roof slope and the northeast corner of the building and the northern section of the roof has collapsed completely. The east wall is now seriously buckled and looks likely to collapse fairly soon. This building is now probably beyond the point of salvation.

22.4 Northwest corner

22.5 Construction detail

22.6 The north elevation

23 Cinema and Library

Only the concrete base and small remaining amount of timber and brickwork shows where this building has been apart from the brick built projection room at the north end of the building. Access to the projection room must have been from the back of the gallery as no stair remains.

23.1 The remains of the Cinema looking northwest

24 Wash House

The Wash House is raised on a concrete plinth with two access doors up five steps on the east side. It is clad externally in corrugated iron and also partly clad internally in corrugated iron, the rest of the interior being clad in boarding. The ground floor is solid with a black and white tiled finish. The ground floor contains washroom, showers, lavatories, sauna and the entrance area. The northernmost of the two doors leads via a stair to the first floor. This is lit by a pair of windows in both north and south gables with four bedrooms, two at either end and a common area in the centre.

All the sheeting is generally in satisfactory condition although some sheets are coming loose. On the north side of the building at present is reasonably solid but it has now lost the whole of its corrugated sheeting from the west side and the majority of it, 85 percent, from the east side and is now completely exposed to the weather.

The building at the moment is relatively solid but deterioration is likely to start soon.

24.1 North and west elevations

24.2 South elevation

24.3 East elevation

24.4 Shower cubicles

24.5 First floor central area with bedrooms off either end

24.6 Changing cubicles

25 Barrack No. 3

A long single storey rectangular building supported on brick piers at 2.4m centres around the perimeter with a central run of brick columns at the same spacing. The northeast corner column has collapsed. The building is irregular as it has been extended on the south side to provide a corridor with a further row of brick columns supporting an extension to the floor and the wall. The north and east walls are still timber clad, that to the south (i.e., the later wall), is clad in corrugated iron, the west wall is clad in corrugated iron but where this has fallen away you can see that it is clad over the top of the earlier boarding. The entrance is in the centre of the south side, the steps have fallen way and the floor inside this area is rotten. The ground floor area was not accessed.

There are six windows along the north side suggesting that there are six rooms each fitted out with four double bunks (i.e., 48 men in the building). Internal walls are boarded out and with fitted bunks and there are timber boarded ceilings in all rooms. The roof space has small lights at either end but does not appear to have been used as there is no boarding in this area. The windows were side opening casements which have now largely fallen away. The roof slope on the south side is intact but the roof sheeting is missing at the northwest corner of the north slope and the roof is collapsed around this area.

25.1 The northwest corner

25.2 The north elevation

25.3 Construction detail

25.4 The south elevation

25.5 The west elevation

25.6 The east elevation. The passage extension to the south is easy to make out.

26 Pig Sty

The walls of this building have collapsed with the east wall falling eastwards taking the roof with it. The roof at the north end of the building is now some five yards away from its original position. The west wall remains more or less intact leaning up against the pig pen. The walls here consisted of heavy timber frame 125x125mm timbers with internal tongued and grooved boarding. Externally tongued and grooved boarding is covered with substantial 87x65mm battens with vertical boarding which was then covered with corrugated iron. There is some remaining building felt behind the internal boards. There is a series of windows along the two main east and west fronts. The roof was composed of principals at 1.2m centres with timber purlins and corrugated iron sheet covering. The loft space appears to have a tie at floor beam level and to have been boarded out internally up the rafters and underneath the collars on the principals. This area was possibly used for storage as there does not appear to have been any daylight in this area and there are no signs of dormer windows and no window in the south gable end.

There are doors in both the north and south end leading to a central aisle, with brick built rendered pig pens either side of the aisle fitted with iron barred gates which have been covered over with boarding. There was a ventilation shaft from the central area through the loft space to ventilators at the ridge.

26.1 South and east elevations

26.2 The south gable end

26.3 The roof looking southeast

26.4 The rendered brick pens seen through the south door.

27 Store, Sheep and Hen House

This building has collapsed entirely. It was fairly crudely built of unsquared timber with corrugated iron externally and timber boarding internally. Only the north end wall remains partially in position and some traces of the south gable end of the building like the pig house has collapsed eastwards with the east wall lying with the remnants of the roof on top of it.

The Hen House was in the northeast corner where the brood boxes and lined out section of wall remain in position. There is a substantial iron window at this point and the remains of a cast iron heating coil, possibly there was some sort of office space at this point (or perhaps just keeping the hens warm?).

27.1 Boat on the west side of the building

27.2 The centre of the building looking west

27.3 The northeast corner of the building

33 Steel Bridge

The steel bridge spans across the stream to the six main tanks. The bridge has three concrete abutments, the central one not being quite in the centre of the bridge but on the edge of the stream. The bridge appears to have been purpose-made with flat plate welded on to give top and bottom cords to the main web which has been cut away to reduce weight. The welds are still clearly visible and are not continuous. Handrail stanchions have been welded on as have the brackets supporting the perforated steel deck. The concrete supporting piers are beginning to crack presumably with the rusting of the embedded steelwork. However, generally the bridge remains serviceable with remarkably little corrosion given that it is entirely exposed. The main problem appears to be the undermining of the central support pillar by the stream. To the south of this bridge there was a railway bridge. Rail lines remain and some timber props can be seen where they have fallen into the stream but nothing of this bridge remains.

33.1 North side of bridge

33.2 The deck looking east

33.3 Construction detail

33.4 Concrete pier being undermined by the stream

58 Pump House

Small brick building with pitch roof running eastwards. The walls are a brick-and-a-half thick though built with an internal cavity with occasional headers providing the bond between the skin. There is a window in both the north and east walls and a door in the south. A steam driven pump remains in position. One window frame remains but the other door and window are missing. The roof has fallen in entirely and the exposed tops of the walls are now in poor condition with the top six courses with blown loose joints. The floor currently is covered with earth and what was originally on the floor is not apparent, probably concrete.

58.1 The south side of the building

34-57 Tanks

The six main tanks all appear to be identical in design and all appear to be in good order. There is some minor damage to the railings around the top of tank no. 55 (third from the south end) but generally all are in reasonable order and all are still sitting on their original bases. All have roofs that are intact and there are no immediate signs of any holes or leaking.

The tanks on the east side of the river are also in better condition than most of the tanks seen at other sites. All are intact, all have roofs, guard rails and access ladders still in place and there is little sign of any significant corrosion. The exception being the northernmost tank, which has a hole cut in it and has had barrels thrown inside it. Looking up through here you can see that there are a significant number of holes in the roof, though the worst hole is actually where a repair has been made previously and a thinner sheet of steel welded underneath causing a small lip to trap water. There are no obvious signs of holes in other tank roofs though it has to be said these are difficult to inspect.

34.1 Pump House by Tank No. 48 (not on Bjorn Basberg's Plan)

34.2 Tanks 52-57 east side

34.3 Tanks 52-57, west side of Tanks looking southeast

34.4 Tanks 41, 42 and 43

34.5 Roof of Tank No.47

34.6 Tanks 43-47 looking northwards

Jetty No.28

Jetty No.28 is the smallest and in least good condition with no decking remaining and several of the timbers now eroded to the point of almost none existence. This too has pipework running out to the end of the pier presumably for refuelling boats. A winch remains right out on the end but little remains of the decking.

28.1 Jetty seen from Building No.21

28.2 North side of Jetty No.28

Jetty No.29

Jetty No.29 has a section remaining in the sea but all that remains joining it to the land is the railway. It has a steel construction supporting a derrick on the end. As with No.30 its piles are round and closely spaced. These have been doubled up in places. This jetty is unusable at present. The construction of all the jetties is much the same though this central jetty has steelwork running out from the workshop area joining to the timber jetty though this has now collapsed off its timber bearings. The remains of a gantry taking pipe out to the pier end also remains in position.

29.1 Looking out along the Jetty from Building No. 19

29.2 Jetty 29 from the south

Jetty No.30

All three jetties remain in position, all are on timber piles and none is in good order. Jetty No. 30 is generally on round timbers more or less the size of a telegraph pole. These are at close centres, around 1.3m though the spacing varies with cross pieces and then principal beams above these and 50mm thick boarding to the top. Much of the jetty has now been covered with steel sheet presumably in an attempt to make it useable. Part of it on the south end of the jetty has now collapsed leaving a small section isolated. There is one remaining derrick and one pipe support remaining in position. The railway line ran out to the end of the jetty though this too has partly now fallen away.

30.1 Railway running onto the Jetty

30.2 General view of the south side of the Jetty

62 Railway

There is a good deal of railway track remaining in place all over the site around all the buildings, out to the jetties and into the workshop buildings. The rails appear generally to have been fixed to steel sleepers. The rails are starting to disappear in places as the grass grows up, around and over them.

62.1 Grass growing over the railway track north of Building No.5

62.2 Track by Tank 36

62.3 Tracks running out onto Jetty 30

64 Cemetery

The cemetery stands immediately to the south of the main site. It was inspected in detail by Pat Lurcock.

64.1 General view of the Cemetery looking south

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